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Legal Notice of Opportunity to Comment USDA Forest Service South Pit Expansion Pumice Mine The Jemez Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the South Pit Expansion Pumice Mine. The purpose of this environmental analysis is to make mineable minerals available for sale to the public, consistent with the Federal Land and Policy Management Act of 1976, 36 CFR 228 Subpart C, and the 1987 Santa Fe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended. The need for the action is to respond to a request from the public for a source of pumice. The proposal consists of mining pumice from a 45-acre parcel located in T. 18 N., R. 3 E., section 25 (southeast of San Juan Canyon between Cerro del Pino and Cerro Pelado). The mine will be a surface mine, with an expected duration of 10 years. The pumice will be hauled from the proposed site over Forest Roads 270 and 10 southward through Ponderosa on State Road 290 to the junction with State Road 4. Then southward through Jemez Pueblo, to U.S. Highway 550 at San Ysidro. The proposed site will be reshaped and revegetated as mining progresses, so that no more than 16 acres are unreclaimed at any one time. We want to notify you that the preliminary Environmental Assessment and related documents for the preliminary EA for the South Pit Expansion Pumice Mine are available via the internet at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=2408>. The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and not authorized under the HFRA and is subject to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. How to Comment and Timeframe The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and not authorized under the HFRA and is subject to 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B. Specific written comments (218.2) on the proposed project will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Albuquerque Journal. If the comment period ends on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, comments will be accepted until the end of the next Federal working day. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Only individuals or entities (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) who submit timely and specific written comments (as defined by 36 CFR 218.2) about this proposed project or activity during this or another public comment period established by the Responsible Official will be eligible to file an objection. Other requirements to be eligible to submit an objection are defined by 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(3) and include name, postal address, title of the project and signature or other verification of identity upon request and the identity of the individual or entity who authored the comments. Individual members of an entity must submit their own individual comments in order to have eligibility to object as an individual. A timely submission will be determined as outlined in 36 CFR 218.25 (a)(4). It is the responsibility of the sender to ensure timely receipt of any comments submitted. Names and contact information submitted with comments will become part of the public record and may be released under the Freedom of Information Act. Comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider (36 CFR 218.2). Please submit your comments to Brian Riley, Santa Fe National Forest Jemez District Ranger. Comments may be mailed to Jemez Ranger District P.O. Box 150, Jemez Springs, NM 87025; Tel. (575) 829-3535 or fax (575) 828-3223 or by email to comments-southwestern-santafe-jemez@fs.fed.us. Comments may also be hand delivered to the

Jemez Ranger District Office at 051 Woodsy Lane Jemez Springs, New Mexico 87025, during office hours, Monday through Friday 8:00 am-4:30 pm. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. Journal: October 21, 2019